

Gideon Harlow, second of that name, grew up in the cape cottage in Crooked Lane that his father had "built with his own hands." After his marriage he lived on in the old house for several years. He was a butcher by trade and a farmer by choice, successful at both. He is said to have sold his farm produce to provision ships -- corn, beans, beef -- and to have accumulated considerable wealth.

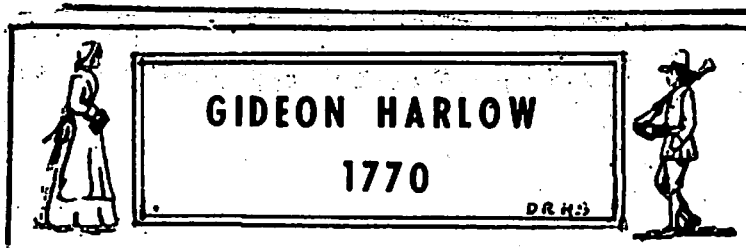
Perhaps the old house was too small for his growing family, but more likely it suffered by comparison with the larger houses being built along the new highway by the shipyards, houses that Gideon admired as he delivered his produce to the wharves. So in 1818 he built himself a fine new home just across the road from the old house, a two storied, square house, the first in the neighborhood, and equal to any the seafaring men were building along the shore. Yet it was a farm house, home of a well-to-do farmer, with an enormous barn, a carriage house woodshed, shops, and outbuildings, an enviable place Gideon could be proud of.

Although the present owner, Alexander C. Colburn, has only two of the original acres and does not farm for a living, the buildings still look as they did in the days when farming was a prosperous business, in 1818 when Gideon Harlow's house was new.

Dorothy Wentworth, Research

## DUXBURY CLIPPER

Thursday, October 10, 1968



## DUXBURY CLIPPER

Thursday, October 17, 1968

In May 1770, Gideon Harlow, housewright, bought 70 acres in Crooked Lane and built a house "with his own hands," according to a family record. He used native pine and oak, fashioned with considerable skill and ornamentation into a comfortable cottage.

Gideon's son, another Gideon, inherited the house, lived in it a few years, then built a larger, more pretentious house nearby. Soon he moved the old house a half mile down the road, to the north side of Temple St. where it looks as if it had always been.

In 1835 Gideon, son of housewright Gideon, sold to Isaiah Bradford, "three fourths acre and twenty five rods with buildings on northeasterly side of the road leading from my dwelling house to the house now occupied by Benjamin Lewis, and adjacent to land said Isaiah now owns."

Probably Isaiah's daughter Lucy and her husband Isaac Chandler lived in the old house, while Isaiah and Elizabeth continued in the adjacent house. In 1846, Isaac Chandler gave a thousand dollar bond for a deed to his children "Lucy J. and Proctor Chandler, by Isaiah and Elizabeth Bradford, whereby they will care for Isaiah and Elizabeth Bradford and Isaac and Lucy Chandler during their natural lives, and also Rebecca Bradford, daughter of Isaiah."

The old house fell to Lucy J. spinster, who probably provided for her parents, and perhaps her spinster aunt Rebecca. To this day it is called the Lucy James Chandler house and so the present owner, Alden Bartlett knows it, but it is really the Gideon Harlow house, built "with his own hands, 1770."

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